

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (currently amended): A system for facilitating complex document
2 drafting with authenticated clause selection, comprising:

3 a database comprising a table of individual clauses for use in a complex
4 document with each individual clause including provisions and terms relating to
5 conditions affecting one or more ~~potentially affected third~~ parties;

6 a list of user authorizations stored into the database ~~with each~~
7 ~~authorization controlling to control individual~~ clause modification and usage by
8 ~~users for each individual clause;~~

9 a list of clause preferences stored into the database ~~with each preference~~
10 ~~influencing clause selection for each individual party to specify content and~~
11 structure of the complex document for the third party; and

12 a document drafting system, comprising:

13 a record naming at least one third party in the complex document;

14 and

15 a clause selection module authenticating ~~each selection of an~~
16 individual clause selection by a user for the at least one third party named in the
17 record, comprising:

18 an individual clause selection module selecting an
19 individual clause from the individual clauses table;

20 a user comparison module comparing the individual clause
21 against the user authorizations list for ~~a given the user and precluding the~~
22 modification or usage of the individual clause where the user lacks a user
23 authorization; and

24 an individual clause comparison module comparing the
25 individual clause against the clause preferences list for the given user and the
26 potentially affected parties at least one third party and including and structuring
27 the conditions affecting the at least one third party provided in the provisions and
28 terms of the individual clause in the complex document.

1 2. (original): A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
2 an index indexing the individual clauses into a topical ordering based on
3 the subject matter addressed therein; and
4 the clause selection module selecting each individual clause from the
5 topical ordering.

1 3. (original): A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
2 table of annotations stored into the database with each annotation
3 providing an explanatory description of at least one linked individual clause; and
4 the clause selection module presenting each annotation upon the selection
5 of the at least one linked individual clause from the individual clauses table.

1 4. (currently amended): A system according to Claim 1, further
2 comprising:
3 a table of standard outlines stored into the database with each standard
4 outline creating an organizational framework into which the individual clauses
5 can be inserted in a structured order;
6 a list of standard outline authorizations stored into the database ~~with each~~
7 ~~authorization controlling to control~~ outline modification and usage by users for
8 ~~each standard outline~~;
9 a list of standard outline preferences stored into the database ~~with each~~
10 ~~preference influencing outline selection for each individual party for the third~~
11 ~~parties~~; and
12 a standard outline selection module authenticating each ~~selection of a~~
13 standard outline selection by the user for the at least one third party, comprising:

14 an individual outline selection module selecting a standard outline
15 from the standard outlines table;
16 an outline comparison module comparing the standard outline
17 against the standard outline authorizations list for ~~a given the~~ user and precluding
18 the modification or usage of the standard outline where the user lacks a standard
19 outline authorization; and
20 a standard outline preferences comparison module comparing the
21 standard outline against the standard outline preferences list for the ~~one or more~~
22 individual parties and including the organizational framework of the standard
23 outline in the complex document.

1 5. (currently amended): A system according to Claim 1, further
2 comprising:
3 a table of non-standard outlines stored into the database with each non-
4 standard outline creating an organizational framework into which the individual
5 clauses can be inserted;
6 a list of non-standard outline authorizations stored into the database ~~with~~
7 ~~each authorization controlling to control~~ outline modification and usage by users
8 ~~for each standard outline;~~
9 a non-standard outline selection module authenticating each ~~selection of a~~
10 non-standard outline selection by the user for the at least one third party,
11 comprising:
12 an individual outline selection module selecting a non-standard
13 outline from the non-standard outlines table;
14 an outline comparison module comparing the non-standard outline
15 against the non-standard outline authorizations list for ~~a given the~~ user and
16 precluding the modification or usage of the non-standard outline where the user
17 lacks a non-standard outline authorization.

1 6. (original): A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

2 a table of topics stored into the database with each topic providing a
3 description of a topic relating to an aspect of document drafting; and
4 a learn module presenting each topic upon selection.

1 7. (original): A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
2 a journal recording each selection of an individual clause from the
3 individual clauses table that results in a final document.

1 8. (currently amended): A system according to Claim 1, wherein at
2 least one of the list of user authorizations and the list of clause preferences further
3 comprises pricing information, the system further comprising:
4 the clause selection module filtering each selection of an individual clause
5 from the individual clauses table against pricing information.

1 9. (currently amended): A method for facilitating complex document
2 drafting with authenticated clause selection, comprising:
3 maintaining a database comprising a table of individual clauses for use in
4 a complex document with each individual clause including provisions and terms
5 relating to conditions affecting one or more ~~potentially-affected~~ third parties;
6 storing a list of user authorizations into the database ~~with each~~
7 ~~authorization controlling to control individual~~ clause modification and usage by
8 users ~~for each individual clause~~;
9 storing a list of clause preferences into the database ~~with each preference~~
10 ~~influencing clause selection for each individual party to specify content and~~
11 structure of the complex document for the third party; and
12 generating the complex document, comprising:
13 naming at least one third party in the complex document; and
14 authenticating each selection of an individual clause selection by a
15 user for the at least one third party, comprising:
16 selecting an individual clause from the individual clauses
17 table;

18 comparing the individual clause against the user
19 authorizations list for a given the user and precluding the modification or usage of
20 the individual clause where the user lacks a user authorization; and
21 comparing the individual clause against the clause
22 preferences list for the given user and the potentially affected parties at least one
23 third party and including and structuring the conditions affecting the at least one
24 third party provided in the provisions and terms of the individual clause in the
25 complex document.

1 10. (original): A method according to Claim 9, further comprising:
2 indexing the individual clauses into a topical ordering based on the subject
3 matter addressed therein; and
4 selecting each individual clause from the topical ordering.

1 11. (original): A method according to Claim 9, further comprising:
2 storing a table of annotations into the database with each annotation
3 providing an explanatory description of at least one linked individual clause; and
4 presenting each annotation upon the selection of the at least one linked
5 individual clause from the individual clauses table.

1 12. (currently amended): A method according to Claim 9, further
2 comprising:
3 storing a table of standard outlines into the database with each standard
4 outline creating an organizational framework into which the individual clauses
5 can be inserted in a structured order;
6 storing a list of standard outline authorizations into the database ~~with each~~
7 ~~authorization controlling to control~~ outline modification and usage by users for
8 ~~each standard outline;~~
9 storing a list of standard outline preferences into the database ~~with each~~
10 ~~preference influencing outline selection for each individual party for the third~~
11 parties; and

12 authenticating each ~~selection of a standard outline~~ selection by the user for
13 the at least one third party, comprising:
14 selecting a standard outline from the standard outlines table;
15 comparing the standard outline against the standard outline
16 authorizations list for a given the user and precluding the modification or usage of
17 the standard outline where the user lacks a standard outline authorization; and
18 comparing the standard outline against the standard outline
19 preferences list for the one or more individual parties and including the
20 organizational framework of the standard outline in the complex document.

1 13. (currently amended): A method according to Claim 9, further
2 comprising:
3 storing a table of non-standard outlines into the database with each non-
4 standard outline creating an organizational framework into which the individual
5 clauses can be inserted;
6 storing a list of non-standard outline authorizations into the database with
7 ~~each authorization controlling to control~~ outline modification and usage by users
8 ~~for each standard outline;~~
9 authenticating each ~~selection of a non-standard outline~~ selection by the
10 user for the at least one third party, comprising:
11 selecting a non-standard outline from the non-standard outlines
12 table; and
13 comparing the non-standard outline against the non-standard
14 outline authorizations list for a given the user and precluding the modification or
15 usage of the non-standard outline where the user lacks a non-standard outline
16 authorization.

1 14. (original): A method according to Claim 9, further comprising:
2 storing a table of topics into the database with each topic providing a
3 description of a topic relating to an aspect of document drafting; and
4 presenting each topic upon selection.

1 15. (original): A method according to Claim 9, further comprising:
2 recording each selection of an individual clause from the individual
3 clauses table that results in a final document into a journal.

1 16. (currently amended): A method according to Claim 9, wherein at
2 least one of the list of user authorizations and the list of clause preferences further
3 comprises pricing information, ~~the system~~ further comprising:
4 ~~the clause selection module~~ filtering each selection of an individual clause
5 from the individual clauses table against pricing information.

1 17. (original): A computer-readable storage medium holding code for
2 performing the method of Claim 9.

1 18. (currently amended): A system for efficiently drafting a legal
2 document using an authenticated clause table, comprising:
3 a table of clauses for use in a legal document compiled into a shareable
4 database, each clause relating to conditions affecting one or more individual third
5 parties ~~potentially affected by a use of the clause in a legal document and~~
6 including user authorizations ~~controlling to control~~ user access and clause
7 preferences ~~specifying to specify~~ content and structure provisions and terms for a
8 specific subject matter;
9 a searchable clauses table index of the clauses table formed using a topical
10 ordering based on the specific subject matter included in the provisions and terms
11 of each clause; and
12 a clause selection interface including document drafting controls,
13 comprising:
14 a record naming at least one third party in the legal document;
15 [[an]] a clause index panel presenting the clauses table index ~~on~~
16 ~~the user interface and selecting a clause from the topical ordering by a user for the~~
17 at least one third party; and

18 a clause panel authenticating ~~a~~the clause selection against the user
19 authorizations for ~~a given~~the user and ~~the~~specifying content and structure from
20 the clause preferences for the ~~individual parties~~ at least one third party and
21 displaying ~~an individual~~the clause ~~from the clauses table on the user interface~~
22 ~~upon the selection by the given user~~ following successful authentication.

1 19. (currently amended): A system according to Claim 18, further
2 comprising:

3 a table of outlines compiled into the shareable database, each outline
4 creating an organizational framework into which the clauses can be inserted to
5 form the legal document and including outline authorizations ~~controlling to~~
6 control access and outline preferences ~~influencing outline selection for each~~
7 ~~individual party~~for the third parties;

8 a searchable outlines table index of the outlines table formed using a
9 topical ordering based on a subject matter of each outline; and

10 an outline selection interface including document drafting controls,
11 comprising:

12 an outline index panel ~~authenticating the index panel against the~~
13 ~~authorizations for a given user and the preferences for the individual parties and~~
14 presenting the outlines table index ~~on the user interface~~and selecting an outline
15 from the topical ordering by a user for the at least one third party; and

16 an outline panel authenticating ~~an~~the outline selection against the
17 outline authorizations for ~~a given~~the user and the outline preferences for the
18 ~~individual parties~~ at least one third party and displaying ~~an individual~~the outline
19 ~~from the outlines table on the user interface upon the selection by the given user~~
20 following successful authentication.

1 20. (original): A system according to Claim 19, further comprising:
2 a hierarchical tree display of at least one of the outlines table index and the
3 clauses table index, each such hierarchical tree display comprising:

4 a general topic listing comprising one or more of general index
5 entries from the at least one of the outlines table index and the clauses table index;
6 and

7 a specific topic listing comprising one or more of specific index
8 entries from the at least one of the outlines table index and the clauses table index.

1 21. (currently amended): A system according to Claim 19, further
2 comprising:

3 an annotation associated with each ~~individual~~-clause from the clauses table
4 and with each ~~individual~~-outline from the outlines table, the annotation providing
5 an explanatory description of at least one of the associated ~~individual~~-clause and
6 the associated ~~individual~~-outline; and

7 an annotation panel presenting each annotation upon the selection of at
8 least one of the associated ~~individual~~-clause and the associated ~~individual~~-outline.

1 22. (original): A system according to Claim 21, further comprising:

2 a hyperlink to a data source external to the shareable database
3 incorporated into one or more of the annotations, the external data source
4 providing a further explanatory explanation of an aspect of the annotation; and
5 a browser window presenting each external data source upon the selection
6 of the hyperlink from the one or more of the annotations.

1 23. (currently amended): A system according to Claim 19, further
2 comprising:

3 a journal recording each selection of at least one of the selected ~~individual~~
4 clause and the selected ~~individual~~-outline usage.

1 24. (currently amended): A system according to Claim 18, further
2 comprising:

3 a table of topics compiled into the shareable database, each topic
4 providing a description of a topic relating to an aspect of document drafting and

5 including topic authorizations ~~controlling to control~~ access and topic preferences
6 ~~influencing topic selection for each individual party for the third parties;~~

7 a searchable topics table index of the topics table formed using a topical
8 ordering based on a subject matter of each topic; and

9 a topic selection interface including topic viewing controls, comprising:

10 ~~[[an]]~~ a topics index panel presenting the topics table index ~~on the~~
11 ~~user interface and selecting a topic from the topical ordering by a user for the at~~
12 ~~least one third party; and~~

13 an annotation panel authenticating a the topic selection against the
14 topic authorizations for a ~~given the~~ user and the topic preferences for the
15 ~~individual parties at least one third party~~ and displaying an ~~individual the~~ topic
16 ~~from the topics table on the user interface upon the selection by the given user~~
17 following successful authentication.

1 25. (currently amended): A method for efficiently drafting a legal
2 document using an authenticated clause table, comprising:

3 compiling a table of clauses for use in a legal document into a shareable
4 database, each clause relating to conditions affecting one or more individual third
5 parties ~~potentially affected by a use of the clause in a legal document and~~
6 including user authorizations ~~controlling to control user~~ access and clause
7 preferences ~~specifying to specify~~ content and structure provisions and terms for a
8 specific subject matter;

9 forming a searchable clauses table index of the clauses table using a
10 topical ordering based on the specific subject matter included in the provisions
11 and terms of each clause; and

12 exporting a clause selection interface including document drafting
13 controls, comprising:

14 naming at least one third party in the legal document;

15 ~~authenticating the clauses table index against the authorizations for~~
16 ~~a given user and the preferences for the individual parties;~~

17 presenting the clauses table index ~~on the user interface and~~
18 selecting a clause from the topical ordering by a user for the at least one third
19 party;
20 authenticating ~~a the~~ clause selection against the user authorizations
21 ~~for a given the~~ user and the specifying content and structure from the clause
22 preferences for the individual parties at least one third party; and
23 displaying ~~an individual the~~ clause ~~from the clauses table on the~~
24 ~~user interface upon the selection by the given user~~ following successful
25 authentication.

1 26. (currently amended): A method according to Claim 25, further
2 comprising:
3 compiling a table of outlines into the shareable database, each outline
4 creating an organizational framework into which the clauses can be inserted to
5 form the legal document and including outline authorizations ~~controlling to~~
6 control access and outline preferences ~~influencing outline selection for each~~
7 ~~individual party for the third parties;~~
8 forming a searchable outlines table index of the outlines table using a
9 topical ordering based on a subject matter of each outline; and
10 exporting a outline selection interface including document drafting
11 controls, comprising:
12 presenting the outlines table index ~~on the user interface and~~
13 selecting an outline from the topical ordering by a user for the at least one third
14 party;
15 authenticating ~~an the~~ outline selection against the outline
16 authorizations for ~~a given the~~ user and the outline preferences for the ~~individual~~
17 ~~parties~~ at least one third party; and
18 displaying ~~an individual the~~ outline ~~from the outlines table on the~~
19 ~~user interface upon the selection by the given user~~ following successful
20 authentication.

1 27. (original): A method according to Claim 26, further comprising:
2 building a hierarchical tree display of at least one of the outlines table
3 index and the clauses table index, each such hierarchical tree display comprising:
4 a general topic listing comprising one or more of general index
5 entries from the at least one of the outlines table index and the clauses table index;
6 and
7 a specific topic listing comprising one or more of specific index
8 entries from the at least one of the outlines table index and the clauses table index.

1 28. (currently amended): A method according to Claim 26, further
2 comprising:
3 associating an annotation with each ~~individual~~-clause from the clauses
4 table and with each ~~individual~~-outline from the outlines table, the annotation
5 providing an explanatory description of at least one of the associated ~~individual~~
6 clause and the associated ~~individual~~-outline; and
7 presenting each annotation upon the selection of at least one of the
8 associated ~~individual~~-clause and the associated ~~individual~~-outline.

1 29. (original): A method according to Claim 28, further comprising:
2 incorporating a hyperlink to a data source external to the shareable
3 database into one or more of the annotations, the external data source providing a
4 further explanatory explanation of an aspect of the annotation; and
5 presenting each external data source upon the selection of the hyperlink
6 from the one or more of the annotations.

1 30. (currently amended): A method according to Claim 26, further
2 comprising:
3 recording each selection of at least one of the selected ~~individual~~-clause
4 and the selected ~~individual~~-outline usage in a journal.

1 31. (currently amended): A method according to Claim 25, further
2 comprising:
3 compiling a table of topics into the shareable database, each topic
4 providing a description of a topic relating to an aspect of document drafting and
5 including topic authorizations ~~controlling to control~~ access and topic preferences
6 ~~influencing topic selection for each individual party for the third parties;~~
7 forming a searchable topics table index of the topics table using a topical
8 ordering based on a subject matter of each topic; and
9 exporting a topic selection interface including topic viewing controls,
10 comprising:
11 presenting the topics table index ~~on the user interface~~ and selecting
12 a topic from the topical ordering by a user for the at least one third party;
13 authenticating ~~a the~~ topic selection against the topic authorizations
14 ~~for a given the~~ user and the topic preferences for the ~~individual parties~~ at least one
15 third party; and
16 displaying ~~an individual the~~ topic ~~from the topics table on the user~~
17 ~~interface upon the selection by the given user~~ following successful authentication.

1 32. (original): A computer-readable storage medium holding code for
2 performing the method of Claim 25.

1 33. (currently amended): An automated system for drafting a contract
2 with authenticated content selection, comprising:
3 a database shareable by a plurality of users, comprising:
4 a table of contract clauses for use in a contract, each contract
5 clause relating to conditions affecting one or more third parties ~~potentially~~
6 ~~affected by a use of the contract clause~~ and including annotations explaining the
7 content thereof;

8 a table of contract outlines, each outline creating an organizational
9 framework into which the contract clauses can be inserted to form the contract
10 and including annotations explaining the content thereof;
11 a set of searchable indices of the contract clauses table and the contract
12 outlines table using a topical ordering;
13 a list of user authorizations ~~with each authorization controlling to control~~
14 contract clause and contract outline modification and usage by users;
15 a list of clause preferences ~~with each preference influencing contract~~
16 ~~clause and contract outline selection for each potentially affected party to specify~~
17 content and structure of the complex document for the third party; and
18 a contract drafting system, comprising:
19 a record naming at least one third party in the contract; and
20 a contract drafting module authenticating each ~~selection of at least~~
21 ~~one of a contract clause from the contract clauses table and a contract outline~~
22 selection by a user for the at least one third party named in the record, comprising:
23 a contract clause selection module selecting a contract
24 clause from the contract outlines table;
25 a contract outline selection module selecting a contract
26 outline from the contract outlines table;
27 a user comparison module comparing the contract clause
28 and the contract outline against the user authorizations list for a given the user and
29 precluding the modification or usage of the individual clause where the user lacks
30 a user authorization; and
31 a clause preference comparison module comparing the
32 contract clause and the contract outline against the clause preferences list for the
33 ~~given user and the potentially affected parties~~ at least one third party and
34 including and structuring the conditions affecting the at least one third party
35 provided in the provisions and terms of the contract clause and the organizational
36 framework of the contract outline in the complex document.

1 34. (currently amended): An automated method for drafting a contract
2 with authenticated content selection, comprising:

3 maintaining a database shareable by a plurality of users, comprising:

4 compiling a table of contract clauses for use in a contract, each
5 contract clause relating to conditions affecting one or more third parties

6 ~~potentially affected by a use of the contract clause~~ and including annotations
7 explaining the content thereof;

8 compiling a table of contract outlines, each outline creating an
9 organizational framework into which the contract clauses can be inserted to form
10 the contract and including annotations explaining the content thereof;

11 forming a set of searchable indices of the contract clauses table and the
12 contract outlines table using a topical ordering;

13 storing a list of user authorizations ~~with each authorization controlling to~~
14 control contract clause and contract outline modification and usage by users;

15 storing a list of clause preferences ~~with each preference influencing~~
16 ~~contract clause and contract outline selection for each potentially affected party to~~
17 specify content and structure of the complex document for the third party; and

18 generating the contract, comprising:

19 naming at least one third party in the contract; and

20 authenticating each ~~selection of at least one of a contract clause~~
21 ~~from the contract clauses table and a contract outline~~ selection by a user for the at
22 least one third party, comprising:

23 selecting a contract clause from the contract clauses table;

24 selecting a contract outline from the contract outlines table;

25 and

26 comparing the contract clause and the contract outline
27 against the user authorizations list for a ~~given the~~ user and precluding the
28 modification or usage of the individual clause where the user lacks a user
29 authorization; and

30 comparing the contract clause and the contract outline
31 against the clause preferences list for the given user and the potentially affected
32 parties at least one third party and including and structuring the conditions
33 affecting the at least one third party provided in the provisions and terms of the
34 contract clause and the organizational framework of the contract outline in the
35 complex document.